



Session

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LETTERS FROM JOHN, THE ELDER

2 John; 3 John

The Books of Second and Third John are the two shortest books in the New Testament. These epistles are sometimes called “postcard epistles” because they are so short they would have been easily situated on one small piece of papyrus. Like First John, these two letters contain similar encouragement for the churches. The issue of false teaching was prominent in the region of Asia where John was and where his letters reminded the believers once again that Jesus Christ lived and gave His life for people.

John was excited that the people were following God and living in the truth of Jesus’ resurrection. John reminded the people to walk in love. The love John talked about was displayed when someone followed the commands of God. Believers had, over time, learned to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide their actions and help convict them when they sinned. By learning this truth, the people could now live in such a way that they would confidently know the truth and walk in it. Walking in truth brought joy and excitement to follow God.

John warned of the false teachers that had infiltrated the church. John helped the members of the church recall that the teachings being presented as truth by these teachers, were, in fact, heresies, and the church needed to shun those teachings. John taught that the heresies were dangerous, not only to the Christian faith, but to those who were teaching them. John reminded the church that these teachers were saying that Jesus Christ had not come in the flesh, He had only appeared to be in the flesh. These teachings went against everything the believers, and John himself, knew to be true. John had the unique advantage of knowing and serving alongside the man, Jesus, whom John knew to be the Messiah. John’s firsthand account could not be dismissed. By sharing his personal account with others, John knew that the church—then and now—would be encouraged to know that as believers, we must do what is good and walk in the truth of Jesus Christ.